



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

News Release

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Two Puerto Rico Police Department agents indicted for impersonating a federal law enforcement officer and extortion

SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO -- Rosa Emilia Rodriguez Velez, the United States Attorney for the District of Puerto Rico, Steven J. Mocsary, Special Agent in Charge, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Office of Professional Responsibility (ICE/OPR), San Juan, Puerto Rico, and Col Gregorio Sanchez, Puerto Rico Police Department, Internal Affairs Division (PRPD/IA), announced today that a joint investigation resulted in the indictment and arrest of two Puerto Rico Police Department Agents for impersonating a federal law enforcement officer and extortion.

On August 24, 2006, a federal grand jury returned a criminal indictment for Eddie Torres and Noel Rosario Colon, both Puerto Rico Police Department (PRPD) Agents, on charges of 18 U.S.C. § 912 – Impersonating a Federal Law Enforcement Agent, 18 U.S.C. § 1951 – Extortion under Color of Official Right, and 18 U.S.C. § 2 – Aiding and Abetting.

The indictment charges Eddie Torres and Noel Rosario Colon with demanding and obtaining forty dollars (\$40,000) from a citizen by pretending to be federal law enforcement agents and reporting to that citizen that the monies were being seized as part of a federal money laundering investigation. Violations to the above federal statutes carry a combined maximum of twenty-three (23) years in prison.

On August 22, 2006 PRPD Agent Eddie Torres was arrested by ICE/ OPR Special Agents assisted by the PRPD/IA Division at PRPD headquarters. The warrant was the result of OPR/SJ investigation. On August 24, 2006, at approximately 8:00 p.m., ICE/OPR San Juan Special Agents assisted by the PRPD/IA Division, arrested PRPD Sergeant Noel Rosario Colon at the PRPD Police Station in Canovanas, Puerto Rico.

The public is reminded that an indictment contains only charges and is not evidence of guilt. The defendants are presumed innocent and are entitled to a fair trial and the government has the burden of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. Assistant U.S. Attorney Julia Diaz-Rex is prosecuting this case for the U.S. Attorney's Office in Puerto Rico.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.